

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164687

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO DAR ES SALAAM FROM
USUN NEW YORK 17 AUG 73:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2909

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ

SUBJ: UN COMMITTEE OF 24 ON PUERTO RICO

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR SCALI TELEPHONED COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
SALIM TO EXPRESS SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT AT
POSSIBILITY THE COMMITTEE MIGHT GIVE HEARING TO PUERTO
RICO "INDEPENDENTISTAS." SALIM EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF
U.S. CONCERN AND PROMISED COMMITTEE WOULD NOT REACH HASTY
DECISION.

2. AMBASSADOR SCALI TELEPHONED COMMITTEE OF 24 CHAIRMAN
SALIM THIS MORNING, AUGUST 17. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED
SALIM'S LETTER OF AUGUST 14, WHICH REFERRED TO THE
COMMITTEE'S DESIRE TO VISIT CERTAIN NON-SELF-GOVERNING
TERRITORIES. SCALI CONTINUED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE
COMMITTEE WISH TO SEND A MISSION TO GUAM AND HOPED TO HAVE
AN ANSWER FOR AMBASSADOR SALIM SHORTLY.

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3. SCALI WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS SURPRISED AND

DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN THAT COMMITTEE CONSIDERING GIVING A HEARING TO PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT LEADERS. HE STATED THAT U.S. AND PUERTO RICAN PUBLIC WOULD CONCLUDE THAT COMMITTEE HAD PREJUDGED ISSUE IF THIS OCCURRED. PUERTO RICAN AND AMERICAN PUBLIC WOULD REACT MOST UNFAVORABLY IF UN COMMITTEE GAVE PLATFORM TO A POLITICAL MOVEMENT WHICH HAD ONLY GOTTEN 4 PERCENT OF VOTE IN RECENT PUERTO RICAN ELECTIONS. SCALI SAID FURTHER THAT COMMITTEE DECISION TO HEAR THE PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENTISTAS WOULD SERIOUSLY HAMPER HIS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A FAVORABLE DECISION ON VISIT OF COMMITTEE MISSION TO GUAM.

4. SALIM SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED US POSITION, WHICH HE KNEW A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF HIS COMMITTEE SHARED. SPEAKING AS THE TANZANIAN REPRESENTATIVE, AND ALTHOUGH HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT SHARE U.S. POSITION ON PUERTO RICO, HE WOULD BE WILLING TO FORGO HEARING PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENTISTAS. HOWEVER THERE WERE ALSO A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF HIS COMMITTEE WHO INSISTED THAT COMMITTEE DO SO. HIS PRIMARY CONCERN AS CHAIRMAN WAS TO ARRIVE AT SOME SORT OF CONSENSUS DECISION WHICH WOULD AVOID AN OPEN SPLIT IN THE COMMITTEE. HE STATED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE DISCUSSING THE QUESTION AGAIN NEXT WEEK, AND PROMISED NOT TO ALLOW IT TO REACH A HASTY DECISION.

5. COMMENT: SALIM IS CONTINUING IN SEARCH OF A COMPROMISE WHICH EVERYONE IN HIS COMMITTEE WILL BUY. HE IS POSSIBLY RIGHT IN SAYING, AS HE DID, THAT IF THE MATTER HAD BEEN PUT TO A VOTE THIS WEEK COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE DECIDED TO HEAR INDEPENDENTISTAS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THOSE ON THE COMMITTEE SYMPATHETIC WITH OUR POSITION TO SEE THAT NO CONSENSUS IS REACHED AT OUR EXPENSE, AND TO WORK ON OTHER MEMBERS TO INSURE MATTER GOES OUR WAY IF PUT TO VOTE. SCALI UNQUOTE ROGERS

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